

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01406 01 OF 02 251513Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00  
EB-08 FRB-03 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01  
SSM-03 MCT-01 HA-05 ACDA-12 /142 W  
-----004782 251627Z /42

R 251456Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5163  
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01406

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MO, GW, SS, XF  
SUBJECT: FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL'S VISIT TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 010242

1. FRG FEDERAL PRESIDENT WALTER SCHEEL WAS IN MOROCCO  
FROM JANUARY 16-19 ON A SEMI-OFFICIAL VISIT. ALTHOUGH  
HE AND HIS WIFE ALLOWED THEMSELVES PLENTY OF FREE TIME,  
SCHEEL DID HAVE TWO LENGTHY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS  
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PAGE 02 BONN 01406 01 OF 02 251513Z

WITH KING HASSAN. READING FROM SCHEEL'S TRIP REPORT,  
ONE OF OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS BRIEFED US ON  
SCHEEL'S CONVERSATIONS WHICH COVERED THE FOLLOWING  
TOPICS:

-- EUROCOMMUNISM: MUCH TO SCHEEL'S SURPRISE, HASSAN  
FOCUSED HEAVILY ON THE CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION IN

ITALY AND FRANCE. EUROCOMMUNISM, HASSAN SAID, WAS REALLY "ASPIRIN COMMUNISM"; IT COVERED UP THE SYMPTOMS UNTIL, WHEN ITS EFFECTS HAD WORN OFF, THE "PATIENT'S" CONDITION BECAME TERMINAL. HE URGED THE FRG TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO BLOCK COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

-- MOROCCO'S INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT: HASSAN SAID HE GREATLY ADMIRERD THE FRG'S FEDERAL STRUCTURE AND BELIEVED IT COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR SMALLER, LESS DEVELOPED STATES SUCH AS MOROCCO. HE ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO LEAVE HIS SON A STATE STRUCTURE FOR MOROCCO WITH SIMILAR FEDERAL ELEMENTS. (COMMENT: OUR CONTACTS TELL US THIS IS SOMETHING THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD FROM HASSAN BEFORE. END COMMENT.)

-- WESTERN SAHARA: HASSAN SAID THE SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY BACKING ALGERIA IN HOPES OF GAINING A FOOTHOLD ON THE ATLANTIC COAST. MOROCCO, HOWEVER, CANNOT ACCEPT HAVING HER LAND LINK WITH HER "SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS" CUT OFF AND WOULD GO TO WAR WITH ALGERIA TO PREVENT THIS EVENTUALITY. THE MOROCCAN PEOPLE ARE NOT AFRAID OF WAR; THEIR MORALE IS HIGH. NEVERTHELESS, THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COSTS TO MOROCCO HAVE BEEN ENORMOUS: 6,000 MOROCCAN TROOPS ARE IN MAURITANIA ON A PERMANENT BASIS AND 50 PERCENT OF MOROCCO'S NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 01406 01 OF 02 251513Z

INVESTMENT IS DEVOTED TO THE MILITARY. MOROCCO SPENT OVER \$1.2 BILLION FOR MILITARY PURCHASES LAST YEAR. HASSAN SAID MOROCCO CANNOT CONTINUE BEARING BURDENS OF THIS PROPORTION INDEFINITELY AND COULD BE FORCED INTO AN OPEN FIGHT WITH ALGERIA RATHER THAN FACE THE PROSPECT OF A PROTRACTED WAR OF ATTRITION. HE ADDED HE HAS SENT 4 SEPARATE MESSAGES TO BOUMEDIENE IN SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BUT HAS RECEIVED NO ANSWER. WITHOUT SOVIET SUPPORT, ALGERIA COULD NOT CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE; MOROCCO NEEDS SIMILAR SUPPORT FROM HER FRIENDS, SUCH AS THE FRG, IF SHE IS TO HOLD OUT. (COMMENT: SCHEEL'S REPORT GAVE NO INDICATION OF HIS RESPONSE, BUT OUR CONTACTS ARE CERTAIN HE REITERATED FRG POLICY THAT AFRICAN AFFAIRS MUST BE FREE FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. END COMMENT.)

-- ZAIRE: MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE DURING THE SHABA INVASION WAS INTENDED TO BLOCK AN EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. (HASSAN ADDED THAT THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION WAS ONLY ONE-THIRD THAT OF MOROCCO.) SHOULD THE SOVIETS, WITH THEIR ALGERIAN ALLIES, SUCCEED IN THE WESTERN SAHARA, ZAIRE'S FATE WOULD BE

SEALED.

-- MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT: ISRAEL MUST RECOGNIZE THE  
PLO AS A NEGOTIATING POWER AND A PALESTINIAN STATE.  
(HASSAN DID NOT ELABORATE.) IF THE WEST COULD NOT  
CONVINCE ISRAEL TO COMPROMISE ON THESE POINTS,

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PAGE 01 BONN 01406 02 OF 02 251508Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01406

HASSAN BELIEVED THAT THE EFFECTS WOULD BE FAR-REACHING.  
NEVERTHELESS, HASSAN WAS BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A  
PEACEFUL SOLUTION COULD BE REACHED. THE FRG, HE SAID,  
SHOULD TAKE A MORE IMPORTANT PART IN A NEGOTIATED  
SETTLEMENT.

-- MOROCCO AND THE EC: SCHEEL WAS PREPARED TO DEFEND

EC ENLARGEMENT POLICIES IN THE FACE OF EXPECTED  
MOROCCAN RESISTANCE. HASSAN, HOWEVER, SAID HE  
WELCOMED ENLARGEMENT IN SPITE OF THE PROBLEMS IT  
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PAGE 02 BONN 01406 02 OF 02 251508Z

COULD POSE FOR MOROCCO AND OTHER NORTH  
AFRICAN STATES.

2. SCHEEL INVITED HASSAN TO VISIT THE FRG DURING 1978.  
HASSAN ACCEPTED BUT NO DATES WERE MENTIONED.

3. RELATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE FRG ARE QUITE CLOSE,  
BASED PRIMARILY ON LARGE AMOUNTS OF GERMAN INVESTMENT  
AND ASSISTANCE. THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONSIDERS CONSULTATIONS  
SUCH AS SCHEEL ENJOYED IN MARRAKESH AS QUITE USEFUL  
IN THE FRG'S EFFORT TO NURTURE RELATIONS WITH THE  
MODERATE STATES IN NORTH AFRICA (TUNISIA AND MOROCCO.)  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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